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Appl. No. 09/211,691
Amtd. dated November 27, 2006
Reply to Office Action of May 26, 2006

PATENT**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-36. (Cancelled)

37. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid that encodes a fusion polypeptide, wherein the fusion polypeptide comprises:

- a) ~~an~~ *a Neisseria meningitidis (N. meningitidis) α-2,3-sialyltransferase that catalyzes the transfer of a sialic acid, from CMP-Neu5Ac, to an acceptor molecule; and*
- b) *a N. meningitidis CMP-Neu5Ac synthetase that catalyzes the formation of CMP-Neu5Ac from Neu5Ac and CTP.*

38. (Currently amended) The nucleic acid of claim 37, wherein the *N. meningitidis* α-2,3-sialyltransferase and the *N. meningitidis* CMP-Neu5Ac synthetase are joined by a peptide linker.

39. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid of claim 37, wherein the nucleic acid further comprises a polynucleotide that encodes a signal sequence which is linked to the fusion polypeptide

40. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid of claim 37, wherein the nucleic acid further comprises a polynucleotide that encodes a molecular tag which is linked to the fusion polypeptide.

41-43. (Cancelled)

44. (Previously presented) An expression vector which comprises the nucleic acid of claim 37.

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PATENT

45. (Previously presented) A host cell which comprises the expression vector of claim 44.

46. (Previously presented) A method of producing a fusion polypeptide, the method comprising:

- a) introducing into a host cell the expression vector of claim 45, under conditions where the host cell is transformed with the expression vector; and
- b) culturing the transformed host cell under conditions where the fusion polypeptide is expressed in the transformed host cell.

47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 46 further comprising a step of purifying the expressed fusion polypeptide.

48. (Previously presented) The method of claim 46 further comprising a step of permeabilizing the host cell expressing the fusion polypeptide.

49. (Currently amended) The fusion polypeptide of claim 37, wherein the N. meningitidis CMP-Neu5Ac synthetase is encoded by a nucleic acid that is amplified by a ~~first primer of SEQ ID NO:3 and a second primer of SEQ ID NO:4.~~

50. (Currently amended) The fusion polypeptide of claim 37, wherein the N. meningitidis α -2,3-sialyltransferase is encoded by a nucleic acid that is amplified by a ~~first primer of SEQ ID NO:5 and a second primer of SEQ ID NO:6.~~

51. (Currently amended) The fusion polypeptide of claim 49, wherein the N. meningitidis α -2,3-sialyltransferase is encoded by a nucleic acid that is amplified by a ~~third primer of SEQ ID NO:5 and a fourth primer of SEQ ID NO:6.~~